

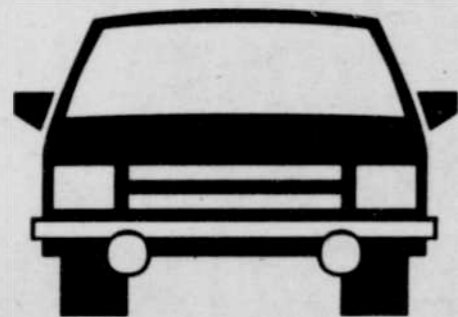
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## Speak Out

tragedy of Sept. 11, many of us are suffering from media overload. I find myself turning off even National Public Radio, my constant companion during my one-hour daily commutes.

The continuous stream of information from the media has provided the opportunity to hear and read some of the best commentary and some of the worst, such as the statements made by James Baker and Jack Kemp on the day after the hijacking. The print media allow us to absorb information in moderation, at the rate we can choose to meet our mental and spiritual capacities.

Now that the fast-breaking news is winding down, we are focusing on commentaries suggesting where to go next. We have heard many opinions, including a powerful speech from President Bush.

Yet I must say that the commentary written by publisher Marty Davis was one of the most eloquently stated and thought-provoking I have encountered. If more people would heed her advice, I have to wonder whether we might accomplish an end to terrorism with far less trauma to both the citizens of our country and those of Afghanistan.

STEVE SEKEL  
Camas, Wash.

### Seeing red

TO THE EDITOR:

By using the term "redneck," Marty Davis is no better than those she uses that term to describe. Yes, young white men sometimes call each other "redneck" just as some young black men call each other "nigger."

This does not make it proper or correct for me to use the term to describe either group. It certainly is not proper for you to use them, either.

As for using the military to solve this problem, the World Trade Center was attacked in the early 1990s. The people responsible were rounded up and went through our court system.

Hundreds of people were killed and wounded in that attack. Eight years later, the terrorists attacked the same buildings and killed and wounded thousands.

If we were to send food and other forms of aid to Afghanistan right now, much of that aid never would make it to the intended recipients. The Taliban leadership would get the majority of anything sent before any suffering Afghani ever saw it.

It is not a nice and comfortable world we live in. Sometimes force is necessary, and this is certainly one of those times. Once the corrupt leadership of that country is removed, then perhaps we should consider appropriate aid.

COLEY FOSTER  
Vancouver, Wash.

### Bye-bye, biphobes

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a dyke who is really tired of the hypocrisy of some gay men and lesbians

when it comes to the subject of bisexuality. These people expect to be accepted for who they are but will not extend the same respect to bisexual people.

*Just Out* is supposed to be for the whole queer community yet still prints anti-bi drivel—the latest being Ms. Behavior telling us, "Bisexuality is an imaginary state." Will somebody explain to me why this kind of ignorance is OK?

Bisexuals are not "semiqueer." They are the queers among the queers, as they deal with discrimination from all directions.

The Kinsey Scale has numbers 1 through 5, too, not just 0 and 6. If anything, we all should aspire to love people for who they truly are inside, not their skin color, not their body size, not their level of physical ability and not their genitalia.

Perhaps these biphobes have some latent heterosexual issues they need to deal with. I suggest Ms. Behavior and her ilk go back and reread their "Celebrate Diversity" bumper stickers. And please, *Just Out*, stop printing such sanctimonious trash.

RICHELLE JOSEPH CORBO  
Portland

### Heartless Atlantis

TO THE EDITOR:

The new film *Hearts in Atlantis* tells the story of the friendship between a mysterious stranger (Anthony Hopkins) and an 11-year-old boy.

It also features a bully of about 13 who is a cross-dresser. His homosexuality is implied.

No matter how you feel or what you think about a gay child, it is irresponsible to show a gay boy sexually assaulting a girl and bashing her. Heterosexual males sexually assault females.

In one of the worst possible plot points, the gay boy is bashed in return. This was like seeing the lynching of a black character as a plot point for the good.

Can anyone look at a split-rail fence and not see Matthew Shepard's place of death? In Portland someone just was murdered, police believe, because of her gender identity.

It is dangerous to promote a child giving physical punishment to the villain for an audience of any age, let alone the intended audience of a PG-13 film. I am positive this film should have an X or NC-17 rating.

Art can heal. I hate censorship of almost any kind.

I am not going to say *Hearts in Atlantis* should be banned. But seeing this film will harm children as well as anyone who loves another person or themselves.

The experience is similar to shooting the watcher in the head. The brain never will be the same again. There will be a hole in the head and in the heart.

PAMELA WALKER  
Portland



**just out**  
Welcomes letters to the editor

Letters must be accompanied by a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters and letters without sufficient contact information will not be published.